City of Barrie

70 Collier Street
P.O. Box 400
Barrie, ON L4M 4T5

Final

International Relations Committee

Tuesday, June 4, 2024 | **5:00 PM** | **Sir Robert Barrie Room**

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT
For consideration by the Finance and Responsible Governance Committee dated June 19, 2024.

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair, M. Sachkiw at 5:01 p.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

Present: 12 - M. Sachkiw - Co Chair and Arras
Deputy Mayor, R. Thomson
LCol G. Johnston - Base Borden
J. Babcock - Global Perspectives Program
T. Gardiner - Japan Twinning
C. Hassey
W. Hay
A. Jones
J. Massie
J. M. Pigeon - German Twinning
B. Sergeant - Harrogate
S. Scully-Pratt - Youth Ambassadors

Absent: 3 - Councillor, J. Harris
L. Palson - Georgian College
K. Watson - Georgian College

STAFF:
Business Development Officer, N. Gavarre
Director of Economic and Creative Development, S. Schlichter
Legislative Coordinator, T. Maynard

The International Relations Committee met and reports as follows:

SECTION "A"

PRESENTATION CONCERNING INVEST BARRIE - GERMANY DELEGATION

Stephannie Schlichter, Director of Economic and Creative Development provided a presentation concerning the Invest Barrie-Germany Trade Delegation and the German State of Baden-Württemberg.

Ms. Schlichter discussed slides concerning the following topics:

- The background of the German state of Baden-Württemberg, the proposed composition of the delegation and dates of travel;
- The Invest-Barrie Germany Trade delegation itinerary between November 4 and November 8, 2024;
- A summary of the travel times between the cities in Germany;.
- The role of the participating companies in the German Trade delegation; and
- The role of the Committee and German Trade Delegation, and supporting the twinning relationship with Zweibrücken, Germany.

Members of Committee asked a number of questions of Ms. Schlichter and received responses.

Jean Maurice Pigeon commented on the City's long-standing twinning relationship with Zweibrucken, Germany. The Committee discussed adding a visit to Zweibrucken while the delegation is already in Baden-Württemberg, Germany during November 2024. Jean Maurice Pigeon will draft the itinerary for Zweibrücken, Germany.

The Committee supports sending five members of the Committee to Germany as part of Invest Barrie German Trade delegation between November 4 to November 8, 2024, and that travel costs will be paid out of the International Relations Committee budget.

The International Relations Committee met and recommends adoption of the following recommendation(s):

SECTION "B"

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND INVEST BARRIE GERMAN TRADE DELEGATION

1. That an official delegation comprised of five (5) International Relations Committee members be authorized to travel to Germany to join the Invest Barrie German trade delegation from November 4 to 8, 2024 to foster the continued relationship with Zweibrücken and to develop new economic opportunities in Baden-Wurttemberg, Germany.

2. That the travel expenses for the German delegation be funded from the International Relations Committee budget in an amount not to exceed $15,000.00.

This matter was recommended (Section "B") to Finance and Responsible Governance Committee for consideration of adoption at its meeting to be held on 6/19/2024.

The International Relations Committee met and reports as follows:

SECTION "C"

SAGINAW, MICHIGAN TRIP FOLLOW-UP

Mark Sachkiw, Co-Chair provided an update concerning the Saginaw, Michigan delegation during May, 2024 for the official signing of the Sister City agreement. He provided an overview of the trips itinerary which included the Saginaw, Michigan hockey team winning the Memorial Cup. The Committee members discussed their positive experience while visiting Saginaw.

Deputy Mayor, R. Thomson acknowledged the staff in Economic and Creative Development Department for all their coordination with Saginaw, Michigan trip.

Stephannie Schlichter, Director of Economic and Creative Development advised that presentation of the gift from Saginaw, Michigan will take place at the City Council meeting on June 19, 2024.

The Committee and City staff discussed inviting a delegation from Saginaw, Michigan to visit the City of Barrie during fall, 2024. Ms. Schlichter indicated that staff in Economic and Creative Development will provide support to the Committee for the delegation.

Colin Hassey and Al Jones volunteered to be the Committee leads for the Saginaw, Michigan Sister City relationship.

The International Relations Committee met and recommends adoption of the following recommendation(s):

SECTION "D"

SAGINAW, MICHIGAN DELEGATION

That staff in the Economic and Creative Development Department support the International Relations Committee in inviting a delegation from Saginaw, Michigan to visit the City of Barrie during the Fall 2024.

This matter was recommended (Section "D") to Finance and Responsible Governance Committee for consideration of adoption at its meeting to be held on 6/19/2024.

The International Relations Committee met and reports as follows:

SECTION "E"

YOUTH AMBASSADORS/GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES PROGRAM UPDATE

Global Perspectives Program

Mark Sachkiw, Co-Chair advised that students from Barrie's Global Perspective Program are currently visiting Germany and having a great time.

Youth Ambassadors Program

Shannon Scully-Pratt provided an update concerning the Youth Ambassadors program. She advised that preparations are taking place for a youth delegation from Murayama, Japan comprised of eight youth and leaders to visit Barrie between July 29, 2024, and August 11, 2024.

Ms. Scully-Pratt provided an overview of the draft itinerary for the youth delegation, and plans for the goodbye party on August 8, 2024, which members of the Committee are invited to attend. Further information will be provided to the Committee when it becomes available.

The Committee approved an expenditure up to $15,000 from the International Relations Committee budget for costs associated with the Murayama, Japan Youth delegations visit between July 29, 2024 and August 11, 2024 related to transportation and goodbye party.

Mark Sachkiw suggested inviting Consul General for Japan to the goodbye party, and setting up a meeting for them to meet the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

ZWEIBRUCKEN, GERMANY UPDATE

Jean Maurice Pigeon provided an update concerning Zweibrücken, Germany. He commented on Zweibrücken, Germany's Municipal Election scheduled for June 9th, 2024, and the impact of the city's recent flooding.

Mr. Pigeon advised that Barrie's Global Perspectives program students are currently visiting Germany, and that there have been no issues.

The Committee approved an expenditure up to $700.00 from the International Relations Committee budget for the purchase of lapel pins.

ARRAS, FRANCE UPDATE

Mark Sachkiw, Co-Chair provided an update concerning Arras, France. He indicated that he was going to engage with representatives of Arras, France to discuss future events.

MURAYAMA, JAPAN FOLLOW UP

Mark Sachkiw, Co-Chair provided an update concerning Murayama, Japan. He discussed the difficulty with obtaining contact information for a representative from Murayama, Japan to support the adult delegations.

HARROGATE UNITED KINGDOM UPDATE

Bill Sergeant announced that June 7th, 2024, has been declared Sir Robert Barrie Day. He provided a historical background of Sir Robert Barrie and the relationship with the City of Barrie. Mr. Sergeant discussed the itinerary for the day, including the reading of the Proclamation to proclaim June 7, 2024, as “Sir Robert Barrie Day”.

Mr. Sergeant advised that there is nothing new to report concerning the Harrogate Business Improvement District (BID)Exchange due to an election.

SIR ROBERT BARRIE (SRB) PROJECT COMMITTEE

Bill Sergeant provided an update concerning the Sir Robert Barrie Project. He advised that Maple Ridge Secondary School has been presented a portrait (on loan) of Sir Robert Barrie to be displayed at the school.

Mr. Sergeant commented on the funds raised from Barrie residents to support the Sir Robert Barrie Projects.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

CHAIRMAN